

STERNE, KESSLER, GOLDSTEIN & FOX P.L.L.C.

ATTORNEYS AT LAW

1100 NEW YORK AVENUE, N.W. • WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3934

PHONE (202) 371-2600 • FACSIMILE (202) 371-2540 • www.skgf.com

J1050 U.S. PTO  
09/971765  
10/09/01

ROBERT GREENE STERNE  
EDWARD J. KESSLER  
GEORGE A. GOLDSTEIN  
SAMUEL L. FOX\*\*\*  
DAVID K.S. CORNWELL  
ROBERT W. ESMOND  
TRACY-GENE G. DURKIN  
MICHELE A. CIMBALA  
MICHAEL B. RAY  
ROBERT E. SOKOHL  
ERIC K. STEFFE  
MICHAEL Q. LEE  
STEVEN R. LUDWIG

JOHN M. COVERT  
LINDA E. ALCORN  
ROBERT C. MILLONIG  
MICHAEL V. MESSINGER  
JUDITH U. KIM  
TIMOTHY J. SHEA, JR.  
PATRICK E. GARRETT  
JEFFREY T. HELVEY\*  
HEIDI L. KRAUS  
JEFFREY R. KURIN  
PATRICK D. O'BRIEN  
LAWRENCE B. BUGAISKY  
CRYSTAL D. SAYLES

EDWARD W. YEE  
ALBERT L. FERRO\*  
DONALD R. BANOWIT  
PETER A. JACKMAN  
MOLLY A. MCCALL  
TERESA U. MEDLER  
JEFFREY S. WEAVER  
KENDRICK P. PATTERSON  
DONALD J. FEATHERSTONE  
VINCENT L. CAPUANO  
JOHN A. HARROUN\*  
ALBERT J. FASULO II\*  
ELDORA ELLISON FLOYD\*

W. RUSSELL SWINDELL  
THOMAS C. FIALA  
BRIAN J. DEL BUONO\*  
VIRGIL L. BEASTON\*  
RYAN J. STAMPER\*  
REGINALD D. LUCAS\*  
THEODORE A. WOOD  
KAREN R. MARKOWICZ\*\*  
SUZANNE E. ZISKA\*\*  
ANDREA J. KAMAGE\*\*  
NANCY J. LEITH\*\*  
ELIZABETH J. HAANES\*\*  
MARK P. TERRY\*\*

JOSEPH M. CONRAD, III\*\*  
DOUGLAS M. WILSON\*\*  
ANN E. SUMMERFIELD\*\*  
CYNTHIA M. BOUCHEZ\*\*  
HELENE C. CARLSON\*\*  
BRUCE E. CHALKER\*\*  
GABY L. LONGSWORTH\*\*  
DUSTIN T. JOHNSON\*\*  
MATTHEW J. DOWD\*\*  
TIMOTHY M. SPEER\*\*  
AARON L. SCHWATZ\*\*

\*LIMITED TO MATTERS  
AND PROCEEDINGS BEFORE  
FEDERAL COURTS & AGENCIES  
\*\*REGISTERED PATENT AGENT  
\*\*\*SENIOR COUNSEL

October 9, 2001

WRITER'S DIRECT NUMBER:  
(202) 371-2667

INTERNET ADDRESS:  
MIKEM@SKGF.COM

Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Box: Patent Application

Re: U.S. Non-Provisional Utility Patent Application under 37 C.F.R. § 1.53(b)  
Appl. No. To Be Assigned; Filed: Herewith  
For: **A Method and Apparatus for a Common-Cause Failure Module for  
Probabilistic Risk Assessment Tools**  
Inventors: Franciscus J. GROEN *et al.*  
Our Ref: 1797.0510000

Sir:

The following documents are forwarded herewith for appropriate action by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office:

1. USPTO Utility Patent Application Transmittal Form PTO/SB/05 (*in duplicate*);
2. U.S. Utility Patent Application entitled:

**A Method and Apparatus for a Common-Cause Failure Module for  
Probabilistic Risk Assessment Tools**

and naming as inventors:

Franciscus J. GROEN  
Carol S. SMIDTS  
Ali MOSLEH

the application comprising:

Commissioner for Patents

October 9, 2001

Page 2

- a. A specification containing:
    - i. 23 pages of description prior to the claims;
    - ii. 7 pages of claims (26 claims - 6 Independent);
    - iii. a one (1) page abstract;
  - b. 12 sheets of drawings: (Figures 1-12); and
  - c. an Application Data Sheet (37 C.F.R. § 1.76).
3. Authorization to Treat a Reply As Incorporating An Extension of Time Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a)(3)(*in duplicate*); and
  4. Two (2) return postcards.

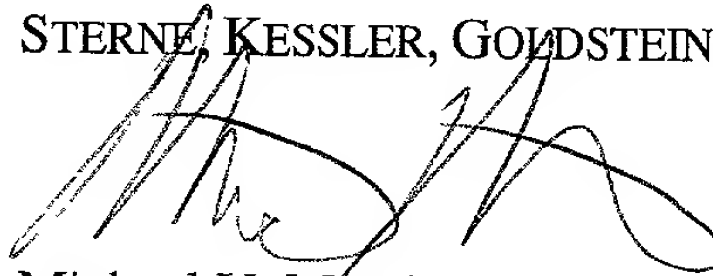
Correspondence should be sent to Customer Number 26111.

It is respectfully requested that, of the two attached postcards, one be stamped with the filing date of these documents and returned to our courier, and the other, prepaid postcard, be stamped with the filing date and unofficial application number and returned as soon as possible.

***This patent application is being submitted under 37 C.F.R. § 1.53(b) without Declaration and without filing fee.***

Respectfully submitted,

STERNE, KESSLER, GOLDSTEIN & FOX P.L.L.C.



Michael V. Messinger  
Attorney for Applicants  
Registration No. 37,575

Enclosures

**UTILITY  
PATENT APPLICATION  
TRANSMITTAL**

(Only for new nonprovisional applications under 37 CFR § 1.53(b))

Attorney Docket No.	1797.0510000
First Inventor	Franciscus J. GROEN <i>et al.</i>
Title	A Method and Apparatus for a Common-Cause Failure Module for Probabilistic Risk Assessment Tools
Express Mail Label No.	

**APPLICATION ELEMENTS**

See MPEP chapter 600 concerning utility patent application contents.

**ADDRESS TO:**Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Box Patent Application  
Washington, DC 202311. ☐ Fee Transmittal Form (e.g., PTO/SB/17)  
(Submit an original, and a duplicate for fee processing)2. ☒ Applicant claims small entity status.  
See 37 CFR 1.27.3. ☒ Specification [Total Pages 31]  
(preferred arrangement set forth below)

- Descriptive title of the Invention
- Cross Reference to Related Applications
- Statement Regarding Fed sponsored R & D
- Reference to sequence listing, a table, or a computer program listing appendix
- Background of the Invention
- Brief Summary of the Invention
- Brief Description of the Drawings (if filed)
- Detailed Description
- Claim(s)
- Abstract of the Disclosure

4. ☒ Drawings (35 U.S.C. 113) [Total Sheets 12]5. ☒ Oath or Declaration [Total Pages 1]a. ☐ Newly executed (original or copy)b. ☐ Copy from a prior application (37 CFR 1.63(d))  
(for continuation/divisional with Box 18 completed)i. ☐ **DELETION OF INVENTOR(S)**  
Signed statement attached deleting inventor(s) named in the prior application, see 37 CFR §§ 1.63(d)(2) and 1.33(b).6. ☒ Application Data Sheet. See 37 CFR 1.76.7. ☐ CD-ROM or CD-R in duplicate, large table or Computer Program  
(Appendix)8. Nucleotide and/or Amino Acid Sequence Submission  
(if applicable, all necessary)a. ☐ Computer Readable Form (CRF)

b. Specification Sequence Listing on:

i. ☐ CD-ROM or CD-R (2 copies); orii. ☐ paperc. ☐ Statements verifying identity of above copies**ACCOMPANYING APPLICATION PARTS**9. ☐ Assignment Papers (cover sheet & document(s))10. ☐ 37 CFR 3.73(b) Statement [ ] Power of Attorney  
(when there is an assignee)11. ☐ English Translation Document (if applicable)12. ☐ Information Disclosure Statement (IDS)/PTO-1449 [ ] Copies of IDS Citations13. ☐ Preliminary Amendment14. ☒ Two (2) Return Receipt Postcards (Should be specifically itemized)15. ☐ Certified Copy of Priority Document(s)  
(if foreign priority is claimed)16. ☐ Nonpublication Request under 35 U.S.C. 122 (b)(2)(B)(i). Applicant must attach form PTO/SB/35 or its equivalent.17. ☒ Other: Authorization Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a)(3)(in duplicate)[ ] Other: The name of the assignee is:

18. If a CONTINUING APPLICATION, check appropriate box, and supply the requisite information below and in a preliminary amendment, or in an Application Data Sheet under 37 CFR 1.76:

☐ Continuation ☐ Divisional ☐ Continuation-in-Part (CIP)

Prior application information: Examiner \_\_\_\_\_

of prior application No: \_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_

Group/Art Unit: \_\_\_\_\_

For CONTINUATION OR DIVISIONAL APPS only: The entire disclosure of the prior application, from which an oath or declaration is supplied under Box 5b, is considered a part of the disclosure of the accompanying continuation or divisional application and is hereby incorporated by reference. The incorporation can only be relied upon when a portion has been inadvertently omitted from the submitted application parts.**19. CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESS**☒ Customer Number or Bar Code Label

Customer No. 26111

or ☐ Correspondence address below

(Insert Customer No. or Attach bar code label here)

NAME

STERNE, KESSLER, GOLDSTEIN &amp; FOX P.L.L.C.

Attorneys at Law

NAME (Print/Type)

Michael V. Messinger

Registration No. (Attorney/Agent)

37,575

SIGNATURE

Date October 9, 2001

Burden Hour Statement: this form is estimated to take 0.2 hours to complete. Time will vary depending upon the needs of the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you are required to complete this form should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, Washington, DC 20231. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Box Patent Application, Washington, DC 20231.